

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1-30 (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method operable on a computer for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising the steps of:

receiving customer usage data;

receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

calculating[[,]] on said computer, using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data, said program price for said vehicle fuel;

~~guaranteeing said program price;~~

~~developing,~~ using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the~~ a risk-associated to a program operator in connection with ~~said guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

32. (Cancelled)

33.(Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~32~~ 31 wherein said fee comprises a one-time payment by said program sponsor.

34. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~32~~ 31 wherein said fee comprises multiple payments each contingent on the occurrence of an event.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said customer usage data includes a quantity of fuel to be purchased, a number of months during which said program price will apply and a type of fuel to be purchased.

38. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said step of calculating said program price includes calculating multiple program prices for multiple geographic regions.

39. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said hedging strategy includes purchasing a futures contract on said vehicle fuel.

40. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said program price is a discount to said current price.

41. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said program price is a capped price.

42. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor;

said processor operative with control instructions in said memory to perform the steps of:

receiving customer usage data;

receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

calculating[[,]] on said computer, using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data, said program price for said vehicle fuel;

~~guaranteeing said program price;~~

~~developing,~~ using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the~~ a risk associated to a program operator in connection with said ~~guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel prices; and storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43 42 wherein said fee comprises a one-time payment by said program sponsor.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43 42 wherein said fee comprises multiple payments each contingent on the occurrence of an event.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein said customer usage data includes a quantity of fuel to be purchased, a number of months during which said program price will apply and a type of fuel to be purchased.

49. (Original) The system of claim 42 wherein said step of calculating said program price includes calculating multiple program prices for multiple geographic regions.

50. (Original) The system of claim 42 wherein said hedging strategy includes purchasing a futures contract on said vehicle fuel.

51. (Original) The system of claim 42 wherein said program price is a discount to said

current price.

52. (Original) The system of claim 42 wherein said program price is a capped price.

53. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium operative with a computer to provide a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, said computer-readable medium including control information to control the operation of a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving customer usage data;

receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

calculating[[,]] on said computer, using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data, said program price for said vehicle fuel;

~~guaranteeing said program price~~;

~~developing~~, using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the a risk associated to a program operator in connection with said guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

54. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising:

means for receiving customer usage data;

means for receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

means for calculating[[,]] on said computer, using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data, said program price for said vehicle fuel;

~~means for guaranteeing said program price~~;

means for ~~developing~~, using said customer usage data and said fee data of said program sponsor data[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the a risk associated to a program operator in connection with said guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel

prices; and

means for storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

55. (Currently Amended) A method operable on a computer for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising the steps of:

receiving customer usage data;

receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

determining a market indicator relevant to the future price of said vehicle fuel;

calculating said program price;

~~guaranteeing said program price;~~

~~developing,~~ using said customer usage data, said fee data of said program sponsor data and said market indicator[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the~~ a risk associated to a program operator in connection with ~~said guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~56~~ 55 wherein said fee comprises a one-time payment by said program sponsor.

58. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~56~~ 55 wherein said fee comprises multiple payments each contingent on the occurrence of an event.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said step of calculating said program price further includes using said ~~usage data and financial~~ hedging strategy.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said customer usage data includes a quantity of fuel to be purchased, a number of months during which said program price will apply and a type of fuel to be purchased

65. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said step of calculating said program price includes calculating multiple program prices for multiple geographic regions.

66. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said hedging strategy includes purchasing a futures contract on said vehicle fuel.

67. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said program price is a discount to said current price.

68. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 55 wherein said program price is a capped price.

69. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor;

said processor operative with control instructions in said memory to perform the steps of:

receiving customer usage data;

receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

determining a market indicator relevant to the future price of said vehicle fuel;

calculating said program price;

~~guaranteeing said program price~~;

~~developing~~, using said customer usage data, said fee data of said program sponsor data and said market indicator[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the a~~ risk associated to a program operator in connection with ~~said guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~70~~ 69 wherein said fee comprises a one-time payment by said program sponsor.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~70~~ 69 wherein said fee comprises multiple payments each contingent on the occurrence of an event.

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 69 wherein said step of calculating said program price further includes using said ~~usage data and financial~~ hedging strategy.

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 69 wherein said customer usage data includes a quantity of fuel to be purchased, a number of months during which said program price will apply and a type of fuel to be purchased

79. (Original) The system of claim 69 wherein said step of calculating said program price includes calculating multiple program prices for multiple geographic regions.

80. (Original) The system of claim 69 wherein said hedging strategy includes purchasing a futures contract on said vehicle fuel.

81. (Original) The system of claim 69 wherein said program price is a discount to said current price.

82. (Original) The system of claim 69 wherein said program price is a capped price.

83. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium operative with a computer to provide a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, said computer-readable medium including control information to control the operation of a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving customer usage data;

receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

determining a market indicator relevant to the future price of said vehicle fuel;

calculating said program price;

~~guaranteeing said program price;~~

~~developing,~~ using said customer usage data, said fee data of said program sponsor data and said market indicator[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the~~ a risk associated to a program operator in connection with ~~said guaranteeing of said program price~~ volatility of fuel prices; and

storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

84. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a program price for the purchase of a vehicle fuel, comprising:

means for receiving customer usage data;

means for receiving program sponsor data, wherein said program sponsor data includes fee data related to a fee paid by a program sponsor;

means for determining a market indicator relevant to the future price of said vehicle fuel;

means for calculating said program price;

~~means for guaranteeing said program price;~~

means for ~~developing~~, using said customer usage data, said fee data of said program sponsor data and said market indicator[[,]] to develop a financial hedging strategy to diminish ~~the~~ a risk associated to a program operator in connection with said guaranteeing of said program price volatility of fuel prices; and

means for storing said program price on said computer for use in association with a purchase of said vehicle fuel.

85-114 (Cancelled)